

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1073

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAGUA 4218GZ

EXDIS

FOR LEGAL ADVISER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AINF, OGEN, NU

SUBJECT: STATUS OF MRS. SOMOZA'S CITIZENSHIP

R3*: MANAGUA 4410, NOVEMBER 14, 1975

1. ON SEPTEMBER 3, THE AMBASSADOR MET WITH HOPE PORTOCARRERO DE SOMOZA, THE U.S. CITIZEN WIFE OF PRESIDENT ANASTASIO SOMOZA, AT HER REQUEST TO DISCUSS HER INTENTION TO BECOME A NICARAGUAN ALTERNATE DELEGATE TO THE UPCOMING SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN NEW YORK WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY (AEP). MRS. SOMOZA IS A NATIVE-BORN U.S. CITIZEN AND A CITIZEN OF NICARAGUA.

2. MRS. SOMOZA SHOWED THE AMBASSADOR DOCUMENTS APPOINTING HER NICARAGUAN ALTERNATE DELEGATE TO THE 1964 SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN NEW YORK, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR (AEP). SHE WAS APPOINTED BY PRESIDENT RENE SCHICK, WAS RECOGNIZED AS A MEMBER OF THE NICARAGUAN DELEGATION BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, AND WAS A U.S. CITIZEN AT THAT TIME. ACCORDING TO THE GON'S CHIEF OF PROTOCOL, AN OATH OF OFFICE AND ALLEGIANCE IS REQUIRED FOR THIS POST.

3. MRS. SOMOZA ASKED THE AMBASSADOR TO MAKE ENQUIRIES IN THE DEPARTMENT CONCERNING HER APPOINTMENT (WHICH SHE SAID WILL BE MADE OVER THE NEXT WEEK OR TWO) AND ITS EFFECT ON HER STATUS AS A U.S. CITIZEN. SHE ALSO MENTIONED THAT SHE WOULD CONSIDER MEM-
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BERSHIP ON THE NICARAGUAN DELEGATION AS AN "OBSERVER" OR SOME

OTHER STATUS, IF HER U.S. CITIZENSHIP WOULD NOT BE AFFECTED. HOWEVER, MRS. SOMOZA SAID THAT SHE WOULD BE WILLING TO FORFEIT HER CITIZENSHIP IF THAT WAS THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE.

4. THE EMBASSY WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF THE DEPARTMENT WOULD PROVIDE GUIDANCE AND INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS: (A) WOULD MRS. SOMOZA'S U.S. CITIZENSHIP BE AFFECTED BY AN APPOINTMENT AS NICARAGUAN ALTERNATE DELEGATE TO THE UNITED NATIONS, WITH RANK OF AMBASSADOR E & P? IF SO, IN WHAT WAY? (B) IS THERE ANY

DIPLOMATIC OR NON-DIPLOMATIC RANK OR STATUS ON THE NICARAGUAN DELEGATION THAT MRS. SOMOZA COULD BE APPOINTED TO (SUCH AS "OBSERVER" WITHOUT THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR) WHICH WOULD NOT JEOPARDIZE HER U.S. CITIZENSHIP.

5. IN VIEW OF THE URGENCY OF THIS MATTER, IT WOULD BE APPRECIATED IF THE DEPARTMENT COULD GIVE ITS IMMEDIATE ATTENTION TO THIS MATTER.

6. PLEASE ADVISE.
THEBERGE

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